writers and so they seem to know that students master introductory concepts more through their own intuitive frameworks than through data-intense reference manuals. This volume is conscience-comfortable for students beginning what is for almost all human health professionals a self-motivated and passionate career.

The Human Body covers a range of depths, sometimes on the same page, as when it defines a simple term such as drug while also introducing competitive antagonism and Schild plots. The illustrations are uniform in style and depth throughout. For anatomy, they are schematic and user-friendly, but not specific or dimensional enough to be primary study items. The listing of recommended readings at the end of each section seems, curiously, anachronistic. Do we really expect that in the internet age students consuming introductory concepts will take note of a cited textbook and commit time in the library supplementing their reading effort? It is reassuring to see the content vetted by these recommendations, but such touches in textbooks may soon be a thing of the past.

This volume is an excellent choice for any introductory course in the human health professions. Its tight organization and superb style should give it legs for future editions, much to the benefit of both students and professors.

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Principles of Evolutionary Medicine.

By Peter Gluckman, Alan Beedle, and Mark Hanson. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. $130.00 (hardcover): $65.00 (paper). xvi + 296 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-19-923638-1 (hc); 978-0-19-923639-8. 2009.

Medicine is a vital field to humans, so it is reasonable to assume that medical knowledge would have a strong connection to evolutionary biology, the most fundamental field in the life sciences. However, the catastrophic abuse of antibiotics in medicine and agriculture, the incapacity to stop a growing pandemic of many common complex diseases, and a long tradition of neglecting evolutionary biology in the training of medical students are some examples that show that the validity of the above connection is tenuous to say the least. Symptomatic of this negligence is that the first textbook in evolutionary medicine for medical students—reviewed here—was published 150 years after Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. It is high time for such a work.

This clearly written and well-presented book is organized into three parts. The first part introduces fundamentals of evolutionary biology relevant to medicine, such as the principles of evolutionary theory, genetics, development, and human evolution. Part 2 applies knowledge from evolutionary biology to four chosen topics of medicine: reproduction, nutrition and metabolism, defence, and sociality and behavior. In the final part, the knowledge of the preceding chapters is synthesized to present an evolutionary framework within which the value of applying evolutionary principles in medical practice is demonstrated.

Among the book's many positive aspects are the historical introductions to many chapters, frequent comparisons between humans and other vertebrates, and the illustrative figures and explanatory boxes. As is expected from a volume that covers so many different fields, several sections might profit from a revision by specialists of those subdisciplines. To mention two examples on primate and human evolution: the question if tail loss happened because it impeded some aspect of bipedal locomotion is misleading, since tail loss occurred in all apes, not just in humans and their bipedal ancestors; and the fossil Lucy (*Australopithecus afarensis*) was not found by the Leakeys in Olduvai Gorge.

Overall, the book will be of great value and is strongly recommended for medical training as well as for a more general audience. It is my hope that it will contribute to a greater interest in evolutionary biology among medical students and improve interdisciplinary awareness.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Study and Communication Skills for the Biosciences.

By Stuart Johnson and Jon Scott. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. $39.95 (paper). xi + 235 p. + 1 pl.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-19-921983-4. 2009.

Volumes that help science students improve their writing, editing, or presentation skills are not uncommon; this excellent new offering, however, has a remarkable breadth of scope. Instead of focusing on one or two aspects of scientific communication, the authors have developed 14 independent chapters that emphasize planning, organization, and time management applied to basic study tasks, essay writing, field and laboratory reports, group projects, note taking, pretest study and test taking, presentations, poster development, and other essential skills. A lengthy and especially valuable chapter